

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 02539 010906Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INR-10 MCE-00 SP-02 /028 W
-----122600 010924Z /10

R 010816Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5290
INFO CDR USASAC ALEX VA//DRSAC-MM/LA
DA WASHDC//DALO-ILM
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA-DSAA
USCINCEUR VAHINGNGEN GER//ECJ4/7-SAO

UNCLAS RABAT 2539

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, MO, US
SUBJECT: TANK CONVERSION PROGRAM -- MOROCCO

REF: A. USASAC 041427Z APR 78
B. USASAC 222027Z MAR 78
C. MUSLO 111000Z MAR 78

1. REFTELS A AND B STATED THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE (LOA) OF SUBJECT PROGRAM SHOULD PASS THROUGH STATE/DEFENSE CHANNELS. REFTEL C DETAILED THE GOM REQUEST TO DEFENSE, DA, AND THE PERTINENT COMMODITY COMMANDS.

2. THE PRESENT FORMAT OF THIS PROGRAM RESULTED FROM RECENT USG-GOM EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF SEPARATE FMS CASES REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE CONVERSION OF 54 TANKS FROM TYPE M48A3 (90MM GUN) TO TYP M48A5 (105MM GUN). FMS CASE UIC, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE BASIC CONVERSION HARDWARE AND THE TECHNICAL DATA PACKAGE, WAS OFFERED, ACCEPTED, AND FUNDED (US 3 5.3 MILLION). WHEN IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THE ORIGINAL PROGRAM WOULD EXCEED MOROCCO'S CAPABILITIES IN TERMS OF SKILLS AND CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE, A JANUARY 1978
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USG-GOM CONFERENCE AT ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT (ANAD), ALABAMA, ADDRESSED THE SPECIFIC MOROCCAN NEEDS, REDUFINED THE CONTRACT CONTENT, AND REDUSIGNED THE TANK CONVERSION PROGRAM. ON 9 MARCH 1978, THE GOM DEFENSE MINISTRY'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, MR M'NEBHI, RATIFIED THE RESULTS OF THE ANAD CONFERENCE AND REQUESTED THAT USG PROVIDE PRICE AND AVAILABILITY (P&A) AND PRICE AND BUDGETING (P&B) INFORMATION AS

DETAILED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE REQUEST FOR P&A WOULD LEAD TO THE DRAWING UP OF A LOA.

3. TO AUGMENT OR REPLACE FMS CASE UIC (CONVERSION OF 54 TANKS), GOM REQUESTS PRICE AND AVAILABILITY FOR:

A. CONVERSION AND OVERHAUL/REBUILD OF 26 M48A3 TANKS AT ANAD TO INCLUDE SHIPMENT OF THE TANKS TO AND FROM THE US, ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT, CONCURRENT SPARE PARTS (CSP), AND MACHINE GUNS.

B. TRAINING FOR 15 ROYAL MOROCCAN ARMY PERSONNEL AT ANAD AND ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND DURING THE OVERHAL/REBUILD PHASE.

4. GOM REQUESTS PRICE AND BUDGETING (P&B) INFORMATION FOR THAT PORTION OF THE CONVERSION PROGRAM TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN MOROCCO:

A. CONVERSION MATERIEL FOR 28 M48A3 TANKS WITH RISE ENGINE TO INCLUDE:

(1) BALLISTIC COMPUTER: EXCHANGE, CONVERSION, AND CALIBRATION

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(2) GUN MOUNT: EXCHANGE AND CONVERSION

(3) 105MM GUN: ASSEMBLED TO GUN MOUNT AND PROOF-FIRED

(4) ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT: FOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN M48A3/5 TANK ONLY

(5) 7.62MM MACHINE GUNS (3 PER TANK)

(6) CONCURRENT SPARE PARTS

B. THE MINIMUM ESSENTIAL TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH THE MOROCCAN PORTION OF THE TANK CONVERSION.

C. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH CONVERSION OF THE FIRST SIX

(6) TANKS IN MOROCCO. THE EVENTUAL LOA FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS TO CONTAIN AN OPEN-ENDED PROVISION IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO DOWNSTREAM PROBLEMS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS.

D. THOSE TOOLS AND MACHINES NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AN EVENTUAL 105MM TANK GUN OVERHAL CAPABILITY IN MOROCCO.

E. CONVERSION AT ANAD OF 26 ENGINES FROM TYPE 1790-2A TO TYPE 1790-2D (RISE). THESE ENGINES, REMOVED FROM THE 26 TANKS TO BE OVERHAULED AT ANAD, WILL BE USED BY MOROCCO AS SPARES AFTER CONVERSION. THE OVERHAULED TANKS WILL RECEIVE NEW ENGINES DURING THE OVERHAL PROCESS.

5. THE STRUCTURE OF THIS GOM REQUEST WAS NECESSITATED BY MOROCCAN BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS.

6. WHILE RESTRUCTURING OF THE PROGRAM WILL INCREASE THE OVERALL COST OF THE PROGRAM AND THEREFORE NECESSITATE NEW LOA'S, WE NOTE THAT THE END PRODUCT, 54 CONVERTED 105MM GUN TANKS, IS NO DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROVED BY USG UNDER THE SINGLE FMS CASE UIC. THIS POINT IS MADE TO PRECLUDE THE MISCONCEPTION THAT ANY NEW U.S. ARMS SALE TO MOROCCO IS INVOLVED. THE TWO ROYAL MOROCCAN ARMY UNITS EQUIPPED WITH US TANKS ARE ASSIGNED TO NORTHERN MOROCCO FACING THE BORDER WITH ALGERIA. ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES), MILITARY SALES, MILITARY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RABAT02539
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780185-0443
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805106/aaaadmgl.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: beaca494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2531103
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TANK CONVERSION PROGRAM -- MOROCCO
TAGS: MASS, MO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/beaca494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014